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THE
Seaman's Opinion
OF A
Standing Army
IN
ENGLAND,

In Opposition to a

FLEET at Sea,

As the best Security of this Kingdom.

In a LETTER to a Merchant,
Written by a SAILOR.

The Second Edition.

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T H E

Seaman's Opinion

O F A

Standing Army, &c.

S I R,

I Have read with no small consideration, the Arguments for and against a Standing Army, so warmly argued on both sides; one making of false Weights and Measures, and allowing nothing to be true Weight that is not weigh'd at the Court-Beam; while the others lay their Reasons and Arguments in the Peoples Scale, and weigh the common Interest and our Constitution against the Court-Projects. I must confess, the latter are much in the right; for Laws were made for the general Good of all the Subjects, and are by no means to be altered to the prejudice of the People: The English Constitution has no respect to those future Contingences and Emergences which may happen to crowned Heads. Our Fore-fathers thought those Laws which were of Force and Virtue enough to keep them in the possession of their Estates, equally powerful to secure the Regalities of the Crown to the King, and would be alike advantageous to their

Posterity ; and I know no Reason why we should be of another Opinion.

The main Reason the Court-party offers for a Standing Army, is the entire Confidence we may repose in the King, on the account of the heroick Virtues inherent in him, and his firm and sincere Intentions to the preservation of the Nation, and the Rights of the Subject ; so that if the People of *England* do not trust the King with their Lives, Liberties and Estates, they would insinuate as if they did mistrust him. I may know my Neighbour to be a very honest Man, and yet have no occasion to trust him with the Deeds of my Estate, my Money or Goods : nor need the People exchange *Magna Charta* for the King's Letters Patents for their Liberties *durante beneplacito* ; for so it must be when he is arm'd with Force at any time to take it away. I have as much, nay a greater Esteem for the Royal and Princely Virtues of his Majesty, than any Courtier of them all ; and though I could trust the King with a great deal, yet I should not care to trust them with a little. A Government settled by the People of *England* ought to be maintained by them ; and without doubt the People will maintain a King in those Rights and Prerogatives they have granted and confirmed to him, otherwise it will be a Reflection which hitherto has not happened upon them : but to maintain a Government upon any other Principles, than such on which it is founded, is ridiculous. The Superstructure ought to be conform to the Foundation, the Building otherwise is irregular and inartificial ; and for the People to undermine the Foundation of their Liberties, and raze it to the ground, only to build a Pyramid of Honour, or a Triumphal Arch for a Prince, is downright Nonsense. A Government ought to be supported ; but it must be consider'd withal how it deviated from its Institution : when we know what a Government is, we can quickly find fit Props to support it, and fit Force to defend it. 'Tis pity there should be a distinction betwixt the King, and the Government, which yet must be allowed when the Courtiers call themselves the Government : As a certain Person was committed to the

the Custody of a Messenger by the Secretary's Warrant, for *publishing and dispersing a seditious and scandalous Libel against His Majesty and Government*; whenas it only contain'd Matter of Fact against some Commissioners. Well then, these Commissioners are the Government; and I am of opinion, if it be thus, that 'tis not worth our while to keep up twenty thousand Men to support it. Setting themselves thus up, they lessen the King and his Prerogative; as if the King had the Legislative, and they the governing Power. Evil Ministers and Officers have in all Times prov'd prejudicial to the Prince that employ'd them; for they acting after an illegal and arbitrary manner in their several Stations, cause suspicion that the Prince by whom they are commissioned, will, when enabled with Force, do the like, or worse: and tho ill Ministers and Officers may act illegally, and after an arbitrary manner, without the Knowledg, nay contrary to the Consent and Approbation of the Prince; yet all their Actions tend to the weakning of his Government, and to create Jealousies in his People. Men judg of the Fountain by the Purity or Impurity of the Streams; and Justice being deny'd or delay'd by Officers and Ministers, they presently look back to the original Contract and Coronation Oath, with a great deal of Doubt and Hesitation. It was a noble and glorious Saying of our great and renowned Prince *Edw. 3.* when he hang'd his Chief Justice *Thorp*, of the *King's-Bench*, for taking a Bribe of 100 *l.* *That he being intrusted as the King's Deputy, to administer Justice in that Court, had as much as in him lay broken that Solemn Oath that his Majesty made to his People at his Coronation.* Instead of a Land Force to defend Evil Ministers, this wise Prince procur'd a Halter to hang them. If Men in great Offices have been guilty of enormous Crimes, have lavishly spent and squander'd away Parliamentary Funds rais'd for the Security of the Nation, must the People of *England* make a rent in their Constitution, and raise and pay Twenty thousand Men to maintain them in their vicious Practices, and secure them from the Violence and Insults of the common People? They are grown already to such a height, that there is no way of calling them to an Account. If an inferiour Board
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commit a Crime, rob, embezel, plunder the Nation, and enrich themselves with the Publick Spoils of the Kingdom; and a Complaint be made to the Lords of the T—ry, they refer it (after the Complainer has a long time attended) to the Board complained against: after a long attendance (five or six Months I have known it) a Report is made; the T—ry acquiesces with the Report, and the Complainer is frustrated of his honest Intentions. It is a Law amongst 'em never to hear the Complaint of an Inferiour Officer against a Superior; as one of the Commissioners of the Ex—se told a certain Person, that there was a secret Resolution taken up by all the Commissioners in the Kingdom, that if an Inferiour Officer complain'd of Mismanagement, they would represent him either as a Fool or a Knave, or else make him so uneasy that he should be forc'd to quit his Employment: and this appears to be true, for most, if not all the Officers that have complain'd of Mismanagements, have been discharg'd for so doing. How then shall these Men be punished? Why the last Resort you know is a Parliament; and if you read over the List, you will soon find how many Courtiers were there, Judges of their own Cause, and Auditors of their own Accounts. So that, Sir, I think you ashoar are in a fine pickle, if ever these Men get a Standing Army to support their Mismanagements by point of Sword, and the powerful Arguments of Pike and Gun: For our Controversy is not about trusting the King with a Standing Army, we pay Him all the Deference imaginable; but we are loth to be at the charge of guarding of those that have not regarded the Publick Good, nor those worthy Gentlemen that ventur'd their Lives to bring the King to the Throne, and to promote them to Offices of Trust and the greatest Profit. Their restless Endeavours to gain this Point of a Standing Army, have other meanings in them than the specious pretence of Publick Safety. When the Fox preaches, beware the Geese; there is some Fetch or other, some Snake or other in the Grass, that will not wriggle it self into view, but under the Umbrage of a Land Force. You must bear, Sir, with my homely Comparisons, as well as with my indifferent

different Language; we Tars don't pretend to polite Learning, and finery of Speech. But to illustrate my Discourse, I must tell you, that the last Voyage I made was to *New England*, the Commander of the Ship I sail'd in was a Man of Virtue and Probity, very skilful in Navigation, and one that had a due regard to the Profit and Advantage of his Owners. But the Mate, Boatswain, Gunner, and other Officers, were men of vicious Principles, and work'd so far upon the good Nature of the Captain, that they got entire possession of him, to the no small loss of the Merchants, and the trouble of all the honest Sailors aboard. When we came to *New England*, and had taken in our Loading, being homeward bound, they perswaded him to take more Men, more Forces aboard, under pretence of Advice they had received from *England* of some *Turkish* Men of War that lay in the Chaps of the English Channel. The poor Captain believ'd a necessity upon such plausible pretences of augmenting his Forces, being unwilling to have his Ship pirated from him: The Forces were raising apace, when it was discover'd that these Fellows had a design to run away with the Ship; so that had their Design taken effect, the good natur'd Captain had been thrown overboard, and I had now been among the *Madagascar* Pirates. Ill Men contrive all ways, first to raise themselves by Villany, and then to support themselves in it. The same Effect your Land-Force may have upon you; Your Captain I know is a good Commander, of Principle and Address, and I verily believe designs you no harm: but his under Officers, if they design'd you any good, would have done it before this time. Besides, if you have a mind to keep your King, keep him from a Standing Army: King *James* had been here still, had it not been for his Standing Army, an Army model'd by the Vipers which lay in his bosom for that very purpose. I like the Effects of that Design so well, that I desire no more of that nature: We have a Government founded upon good Principles; a Revolution of which every step has been attended by Divine Providence; a King, who governs according to the Rules of Justice at home, and is the Head and Leader of our Armies abroad, to his own immortal Honour, and the Good
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and Welfare of his People; and every good Englishman and Christian ought to bless God for it. But Revolutions in a Nation are like Fevers in the Body natural, which advancing too often, prey upon the Vitals to the destruction of the whole *Compositum*; and tho we have lately known it did, yet they seldom happen without damage either to the Royal Prerogative, or the Franchises of the People, both which ought to be kept inviolable; and since they are so at present, I know no reason why we should put either in danger for the future. An English King, and an English People, sute well together; and since we are blest with both, we have no reason to promote new Whimseys in the head of one, to create Jealousies in the other. The Notion of an Invasion from the Man abroad is not so much a Proposition of Horror, as the Notion of our Liberties being invaded at home; and we are in more danger of those Horse-leaches of Government that fill themselves from the Veins of the State, than from Foreign Troops. Money is the Sinews of War; but the Sinews once weakned, the Body is in a tottering Condition. A Standing Army must be fed, and when once without Pay, must live upon Free-quarter; for there is no reason that Men rais'd for the service of their Country, should starve in it. I would fain know what these Men would do with a Standing Army, unless (as before) to guard them from the Violence of the Mob. Where should they encamp, to be in a readiness to oppose an Invasion? Had they as many Armies as there are landing places in *England*, we might have some Security. Few of these Men that talk of Standing Armies, have had the Courage to go abroad to the Wars; but now perhaps for their Diversion, at the expence of the Kingdom, they are willing to see *Namur* taken at *Windsor*, or a Butterfly Camp at *Hounslow-Heath*, where the Forces must attend the Motions of the Man abroad:

*Where the Knights Errant lie with Legs across,
Expecting what must never come to pass,*

The Sky falling to the utter destruction of the whole Species of Larks; French Invaders in Fleets of flying Wheelbarrows,
and

and abundance of such odd Chimera's, if not worse. How will they model this Army? as they have done the Civil Offices? Will they fill Commissions with rancour'd Tories, confirm'd Jacobites, and Non-Jurors? Shall Men of Worth, Merit and Affection to the Government, be as scarce in this Army as they are in the Customs and Navy? God forbid! How many years Purchase must a Commission be sold for; and where will be the place of Sale, and who the Broker, now Sir Fleet is dead? Few of the King's, and their Country's Friends, have got Money to buy; must they be sold to those that got Pardon-money in the late Reigns of those that are starving since this Revolution? Well, there may be a formidable Invasion, and the Nation in a great deal of Danger thereupon. The whole Strength of the Nation is not able to withstand it, and yet the Party pretend that Twenty thousand Men out of that Strength shall do it; that is as much as to say, seven Millions of Men are not able to withstand an Invasion, but Twenty thousand of the seven Millions are; the *Minor* is of greater force, power and virtue than the *Major*: if the Folk in power say so, 'tis true enough; better a Nation be ruined, enslav'd, or any thing else, than they be thought to err in Judgment, or miss their Ends. But suppose the worst, that a French Army should land; why then if we han't a Standing Army, the great Places at *White-Hall* will be in a tottering condition: but suppose they don't land, and we have a Standing Army in expectation of it; why then the great Folk at *White-Hall* are all the time fingering the Money rais'd to pay them, not to their disadvantage to be sure. 'Tis no matter whether we are invaded or no, as long as their Trade goes forward. Now tho your Earthquakes don't disturb the Element I sojourn on, yet I may give my Opinion concerning your Affairs as well as some of you have as to the Management of the Fleet, that know no other difference betwixt Salt Water and Fresh than by the Taste. I remember I was at an Anchor in *Sturland-Bay*, when there was just such another Invasion in the Isle of *Purbeck*, as your Folk expect. If there was then any Standing Army, they were guarding the Royal Ducks in St. James's Park, or otherwise employ'd; but I am sure they

were not there. Now without any Royal Mandate, Commission, or any Order from above, the bold *Brittons* assembled in a hostile manner, with all the Weapons of Defence the Country could afford; and without any Ceremony march'd to the Place of landing: The Rumour of the French Numbers was Ten thousand, and in 48 hours there were a Hundred thousand in Arms in *Dorsetshire*, and the adjoining Counties, who came down time enough to the Sea side to engage the Invaders. I believe if these Hodmandods, Raw-heads and Bloody-bones, with which the Children of *England* are now scar'd, should appear, we shall be in a good posture of defence, without Twenty thousand Red Coats, which are more terrifying than an Invasion.

Now these Bugbears and Scarecrows, this Visionary Invasion that haunts the Ruins of *White-Hall*, being remov'd out of sight, let us recover our Senses, and scan the point, whether the Militia regulated and disciplin'd may not be as powerful to withstand an Invasion, as Twenty thousand of that Militia (for every one capable of bearing Arms belongs to it) list'd and entered into Pay. But they say the Militia is not disciplin'd; whose Fault is that? Was it not in their power that contend for a Standing Army, to have disciplin'd the Militia since the Controversy in the House of Commons last Sessions about it? If the Officers of the Militia can't be trusted, 'tis the fault of those that made 'em Officers. A Negligence in this Point, and tramping up a Standing Army at the same time, looks as if their Army were to do some business the Militia will not do; for it is evident the Militia can do more than twenty times the Forces they desire, when necessity shall require it. Besides, Twenty thousand Men dispers'd are no Army; their being in a body makes them one, but a body can be only in one place at a time. We have abundance of Landing-places, and our Army can be but at one of them, and I know already the Invaders won't land there. Now on the other hand, they can land no where in *England*, but the Militia will be at the place, enough of them to make a stand till the rest come up; so that if we had a
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Standing Army, the greatest use of them at that Juncture would be to come in for the Plunder of the field. I might add more on this head, were it not vanity to urge Reasons to justify a thing that is beyond dispute. But the Authors for an Army, like Mr. *Bays* in the *Rehearsal*, are resolved to present the World with something very ridiculous, and have not yet determined the point whether the two Kings of *Brentford* shall head their Standing Army with both Boots on, or one off.

As I don't know the designs, so I am ignorant of the Consequences of what these Men make such a bustle about; but it tends to create a Mistrust in the King of his best Subjects, and tells him plainly he cannot be secure in his Throne, and enjoy his Prerogative, without making an Alteration in our Constitution; and that the People's Liberty, and the Regalities of the Crown cannot be safe at the same time. Now, if I should aver, that our Constitution must of necessity tumble down, if a Branch of the King's Prerogative were not lopt off to make a prop to support it, I suppose the Secretary of State would esteem it a State Crime, and I should be visited with the plague of a Messenger; when at the same time these Authors raise Bulwarks, and plant their Cannons upon them to batter down our Constitution, break down the Fences of our Liberty, and destroy those Privileges which have immemorially been the Rights of our Ancestors; and all this conniv'd at, if not encouraged. Have the Liberties of the People no Guardians? Are there none to prosecute such Offenders in the name of the Good People of *England*? Where is the Justice, Glory, and Honour of our Ancestors? Are all their glorious Marks obliterated in their Posterity? Are the ends of the World come upon us, that we are willing to see an end of our Liberty? Are our Rights less valuable, our Laws of less force than formerly? Are we ignominiously willing to give away what our Fore-fathers left us at the expence of their Blood? God forbid that the Children unborn should curse us as cruel Step-fathers that have disinherited them of their Birth-right. Will not succeeding Generations think, that either our
Rights

Rights were not worth keeping, or that we ingloriously betrayed our Children in parting with them? Will not the Roman Honour and Gallantry, which inspired Heathens newly acquainted with Laws and Principles of Government, rise up in Judgment against us, when we prove treacherous Deserters of our Liberties, and raise and pay Twenty thousand Men to take possession of our Freehold? Are not those who surrender'd Charters, gave away their Birth-right, and betray'd the Liberties of their Country in the late Reigns, justly branded with the marks of Infamy, and their Memories handed down to Posterity as ignominious and scandalous? And shall we, who have spent so many Millions to undo what they did, and retrieve our sinking State from utter Ruin, tread in their steps, act the same Tragedy, and play over the same Game? Was a Standing Army but a few years ago, accounted a Grievance, and now become a thing desirable? Is it not attended with the same danger, or are we grown less sensible of it? Are we in the same condition with those that are troubled with the French Disease, of whom it is said, when once cured they are more desirous to commit the Sin again? Are we clapt in our Understandings, that we are willing to return into the same languishing Condition, of which we are so lately recovered, and have pay'd so dear for the Cure? Let the Pleaders for a Standing Army consider, how much a Standing Army was accounted a Grievance in the late Reigns, and how much it tended to the destruction of the King that rais'd it, and they may esteem their designs impracticable; for it can be no other than a Reflection upon the Wisdom of the English Nation, voluntarily to give one King what they forc'd from another, to secure themselves in the peaceable possession of their Estates: and no wise Man can imagine, that in a Government founded on good and wholesom Laws, a thing that turn'd one King out of the Throne, should keep another in it. If you have the same People to manage this Standing Army, that managed the late K. *James's*, you have the same People to oppose this Standing Army as oppos'd the other; and in all likelihood you'll be brought into the same Disorder and Confusion: wherefore I think, all things considered, you had better be without it.

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Thus far, Sir, I have ventur'd out of my Element, to give you my Sentiments of Affairs ashoar; now suffer me to step aboard my Ship, and give an account of another Security to our Kingdom little heeded or talk'd of, I mean our Shipping. It is suppos'd these horrible Invaders will not fly over the Seas in the Air, nor will they shove themselves over in leaden Boats under Water; they are compounded of Flesh, Blood and Bones, contrary to the nature of Spirits; they are visible and tangible Substances: therefore let us consider how we Sailors may handle them; for it is a demonstrable Argument, if we can drown or burn them at Sea, you'll have no occasion of a Land Army to knock 'em oth' head ashoar. By your insisting so much upon a Land Force as necessary to withstand an Invasion, you seem to yield up the Empire and Dominion of the Sea, which I am very unwilling to grant, knowing the English have no Rivals in that Affair, nor no Nation capable of taking possession of that Dominion. If we could beat an Enemy at *la Hogue*, and burn fourteen of their three Deck Ships at one time, and might have quite ruin'd them at Sea then, had it not been for the wonderful good Nature of you know who; I say, if we could do what they have not yet been able to recruit, nor perhaps never will unless we sell 'em Timber to build more Ships; if they have lost their Ships, and we have augmented ours by a far greater number than they have lost, I hope we are not now less able to fight an Invader. I suppose the Disembarkment of the Prince of *Orange* was carried on with as much secrecy as an Invasion will be, yet we know how long it was talk'd of, and how long expected before it came. Consider in the next place, how many Ships an Invader must have to bring over Men enow to conquer this Kingdom. Now if six or seven hundred Ships were requisite to bring over at most but Fourteen thousand five hundred Men, how many will be necessary to make an Invasion upon *England* in order to conquer it? Their numbers must be much greater, they come without leave and undesired; and Invaders let 'em be of what Country soever, or of what Religion soever, are hated by Englishmen. The Prince of *Orange's* Descent upon *England* was

no Invasion but an Invitation, and his Accession to the Throan no Conquest (whatever two or three insignificant Priests have wrote) but the free Gift and Benevolence of the good People of *England*. Yet notwithstanding all Parties were agreed in his Revolution, how many Accidents happen'd? How often was the Fleet detain'd by contrary Winds? and when at Sea, forc'd to steer a Channel Course, and in a Line too, which made 'em seen by both Shores. But this Invading Fleet that must have at least ten times the number of Men, and consequently of Shipping, are to come over undiscover'd. From what Place will they come? Why this is the main point; the honest Men in Offices tell of an Invasion, and it is to be done by somebody, that they will not dare name for fear of being Gazetted, and ordered to be prosecuted, as *Dick Baldwin* was for reflecting upon some great Person at the French Court: They had better run the hazard of Prosecution, and tell the truth; the Prosecution may be bought off, *Mr. Baldwin* gave but eight Guinea's to *Harry B*— and three to his Brother *N*— and the Prosecution was at an end. But this Invasion can't be brib'd off, the Invaders will not stay for Gratuities, all is their own when they have conquer'd, and into this Condition we may be brought, because our Standing Army-men are mealy-mouth'd, and won't speak out. An Invasion may well be a Proposition of Horror to them, when the very Invaders and the Country they come from, cramps their Tongues, and frightens them speechless, so that Twenty thousand Men and nothing else, can bring them again to their Senses. If they would tell us the Country they'l come from, I could give you my opinion in the matter; if I knew their Country, I should know their Ports, and what Conveniencies they have for shipping their Men; but I'm sure they have no Conveniency of landing them in *England* unless we please: All we can learn from them is, that 'tis the *Man abroad*, and abundance of Men there are abroad, and which of 'em 'tis we can't tell; this *Man* may be somebody or nobody, or anybody or everybody, since he has no name. He may be the Man in the Moon for ought we know, and then we are in a fine condition; his is a Country we know nothing of, nor what kind of People he will bring with him.

him, nor what sort of Weapons they use in Battel: He is certainly an Enemy, because he is no Friend, and a powerful Enemy too; his Dominions are very large, and for ought we know very populous; and if he should descend upon *Salisbury Plain* with two or three hundred thousand Mortals, why then the Cathedral Church there will be invaded by Men of a strange Religion, that have not been educated to mumble the Prayers in *usum Sarum*, and the best *stake* in the Hedge of one of our *Bishops* is quite lost. The more I think of it, the more am I terrify'd at the Apprehension of such an Invasion; what a horrid terrifying Spectacle will it be to see Men (nay for ought we know Monsters) descend like Hail upon our Country; where our Ships can't come, and nothing but Twenty thousand regular Troops can oppose? How will our Women and Children be frighted, and our old Men astonished at such an Apparition, worse than that at *Purbeck*! Now I should think it most proper, to prevent an Invasion from this Country, to send an Ambassador thither: We have not given the Man, nor any of his Subjects, any affront that I know of; and a Truce or Peace is far better than War, as the Turks and Germans on both sides affirm; and we have Men of Parts and Sense enough in our Nation to send on such an Embassy: We know the Country is very high, yet we are provided with very high Flyers in our Government, that have mounted from Footboys, Journeymen and Valets, to Commissioners, and other great Officers; one or two of these on this Embassy may put an end to our Fears, and render Twenty thousand armed Men useless: I could pick a Man or two out of our Officers fit for this Embassy, that have risen with a wonderful Impudence at home, and will no doubt carry a good Stock abroad with them. These high Flyers have one Conveniency in mounting above the rest of Mankind, they have no weight of Brains to retard their Flight upwards; and if there is any Money in the World in the Moon, they'll load enough in their Pockets to hasten their descent downwards. If they say my Invasion is ridiculous, I say so of theirs, as also of Twenty thousand Men to withstand it, and keep out a Force which all *England* beside can't do.

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Well, it seems we must still be in the dark about this Invasion, the Army Authors won't tell us whence it will come, and yet tell us a dismal Story of its coming; so that we are left to bare supposition, which puts nothing at all into being, but is the Foster-father of Non-entities: We have suppos'd it from above the Clouds already, let us descend and view the Terrestrial Globe, view the Coasts of our Neighbours, and see from which of them all a Fleet of Ships can lanch forth into the deep, and pass the Ocean with an Army without Obstruction from the Royal Navy: 'Tis Nonsense to suppose this Invasion to come from *Holland*, which so lately assisted us with Forces in order to recover our lost Liberties; those that help'd knock our Fetters off, will not be for putting them on so soon already. But suppose *Holland* had a design upon *England*, let us consider how impracticable such a design would be, whilst *England* has so good a Fleet of Ships of War: Those Auxiliary Forces they lent the good People of *England* upon the Revolution, met with abundance of Obstacles and Difficulties in shipping the Horses and Men, which kept the Enterprize so far back, that the very Regiments, the Names of the Colonels commanding those Regiments, and an exact Account of the Number of the Men, Horse and Foot, was printed in the English Gazette long before they saw the Coast of *England*; so that the English Nation had then as much time to prepare to oppose them, had they been willing, as they had to prepare to receive them; *Volenti non fit injuria*. The Revolution pleas'd the Nation, if the major part of the People may be call'd so. But had these been Invaders, as they were the Auxiliary Troops of the People of *England*, entertain'd in their Service by their own Consent; the Fleet then under the Command of the Earl of *Dartmouth*, and in a proper Station too, could easily have obstructed that Expedition: But the Seamen were in a Confederacy with the Landmen in the Interest of their Country, and I hope in God ever will be; and it is not often the English Fleet has let an Armed Navy pass through their Channel without one Broadside.

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We must imagine it not to come from *France* immediately after the Ratification of a solemn Peace, so honourable to the English Nation : But suppose *France* at any time should have the Vanity to invade *England*, will not our Navy be sufficient to put a stop to such an Invasion ? The French Councils perhaps are as secret as any in the World, and tho vulgar Eyes cannot pry into the Cabinets of that Prince, yet his first and second Rate Men of War are easily discerned ; I hope they'l rig their Ships before they put them to Sea, they'l careen, and gun, and man them, and all this can't be done in a Chimney Corner : Their Caulkers, Hammers, and Carpenters adzes, will make some noise ; we shall hear something of it sure. Consider their Ports, and where their Ships are laid up, and you may easily conclude they can't soon join upon such a design : *Brest* is the most commodious and most frequented Port with Men of War, but not capable of containing them all, and if it could, they can't enter the Ocean at once ; and 'tis but very bad riding in *Camaret Bay* for some, till the rest join them ; some are laid up at *Marseilles*, *Thoulon*, *Havre de Grace*, *Port Lewis*, *Rockfort*, &c. besides some at *Dunkirk* ; from which place they can't come out with their Guns on Board ; and while they are taking their Guns in, if we can annoy 'em, we may have Intelligence of them. Besides, they must rendezvouz somewhere, and that Wind which brings one half of the Fleet to the place of rendezvouz, keeps the other half back ; so that if the Peace did not put us out of this danger, our Fleet would be a sufficient Guard against it.

Spain is in a firm Alliance with us, and had a good Belly-full of Invasion in 88, which is not yet digested, and the Northern Crowns never made any Pretentions of this nature ; so that I dare boldly affirm we are in no danger of an Invasion from any known part of the World, and the *Terra Incognita* is a long way off.

In the short view I have taken of the Condition of our Neighbours, and their strength in Shipping, compar'd with the Naval Force and Maritime Strength of *England*, I believe if all

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of them should intend an Invasion upon *England*, they could not accomplish it. For, as I have said before, it cannot be done but we must have notice of it; and while they are fitting out their Fleet we may do the same: our Fleet being out, and divided into Squadrons, appointed in proper Stations, would easily intercept them; it will be easy enough known when they first put to Sea, if we have a sufficient number of Advice Boats abroad under the Command of able and honest Sailors, and two of them still in company: my Reason is, that as soon as they find the Enemy under sail, the worst Sailor of the two should take the advantage of the Wind, and the other ply to Windward to give the two nearest Squadrons notice thereof. Now we'll suppose the worst, that the Enemy shall have the advantage of a List of the Stations of our Ships, as I have heard they formerly have had; why then their business is to sail in a direct Line betwixt two of our Squadrons: for should they sail in a Line of Battel, stretching East and West, and keep their Tenders in the same Line, which they must do to guard them, this Line must be of an extravagant length; the Prince of *Orange's* Fleet could not form their Half Moon till past the Skirts of *Dover*. Thus in all probability each Wing of the Invading Fleet will touch upon a Squadron of Englishmen of War; and all that understand Sea fighting will conclude this must needs be to the disadvantage of the Invading Fleet. Suppose they sail in a strait Line North and South, to prevent discovery by spreading too much room, their Tenders must be placed either in the Front or the Rear of their Fleet; for their Ships of War must keep in a body, and it is our business only to fall upon their Tenders and Transport Ships, and a few Men of War will ruin hundreds of such Vessels in a short time, being not scattered, but in a body: for they must keep together, and as much under the protection of their Convoys as possible; and should their Convoys engage our Men of War, and their Transports at the same time keep on their Course, in all probability they'll fall in with our Relieving Squadron that comes to the others assistance, and then they are totally ruined; or if during the Engagement they lye by to see the Event of the Fight, they are in as much danger of the Relieving Squadron. Nor is it practicable for the Transport Ships during
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the Engagement to fail to the place of Landing, for their Men must land under covert of their Cannon, otherwise the Country Folk would shoot 'em like Seagulls, as fast as they land: They'll never find a *Brixam* business of it; there's a wonderful difference betwixt Invasion and Invitation, betwixt the Disimbarkment of Auxiliary Troops, and an Army of Varlets and Cut-throats. If they should be no better watch'd than the *Thoulon* and *Pointi's* Squadron, and to the Scandal of the English Seamen, slip our Ships of War, and arrive on our Coast, I question neither the Courage nor Conduct of the People of *England* in giving them such a Reception as they deserve.

Now the Usefulness of a Fleet, as the best Guard to *England*, is evident, not only from Reason, but from undoubted History, and plain Matter of Fact; many Instances whereof our Tars often at Sea talk and boast of, many of which I could instance in, were I not too far gone already beyond the Limits of a Letter. But however I must tack about again upon your Land Army Folk; and to avoid all Animosities, Quarrels and Heats, I shall not tell how much nor how little was done during this War by the Land Army in *Flanders*; but shall only hint what might rationally have been done by the Fleet under a good Management and Conduct. Of so many Millions of Money that have been spent during this War in Land Forces, suppose some of that Money and those Forces had been us'd on board the Navy, would not fifteen or twenty Thousand of them thus employ'd have done more Mischief to the Enemy than fifty or threescore Thousand in *Flanders*? They might have landed in their Country, their sensible part, which we have so gently touch'd; such a Force would have been sufficient to have ravag'd 10 or 20 Miles round in their Country, and when the Enemy had got sufficient Force together to repel them, they might e'en have march'd aboard again with their Plunder: and coasting along their Country, in two or three days time have landed again a hundred Miles from the place they landed in before, and retired aboard as before, and practis'd this Trade along their Coast from East to West; this would have been a tiresome Diversion indeed: They would thus have had no time to sow or reap, or dress
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their Vineyards; this would have diverted their Armies abroad, perpetually harass'd their Arrear-ban at home, kept their Peasants from their Employments, and fill'd 'em with continual Fears and Alarms. Being kept continually waking, it might have alter'd the Temper of an imperious aspiring Enemy; waking they say will tame a mad Horse, why not a mad Tyrant? But whether our Mismanagements have been occasion'd thro Ignorance of the Managers, or thro an evil Design against our Country, is yet left to determine; but both are equally noxious to a Nation, and by continued Successions of Grievances without redress, the most flourishing Kingdom, the most glorious Monarch, and most warlike People may at once be empoverish'd at home, and grow scandalous abroad; for nothing conduces more to the Honour and Glory of a Nation than the good opinion foreign States and Governments have of their Management; they'l give respect according to the Polity of their Government; if wise they'l court its Favour, if foolish they'l despise it: Tho a Man be strong and rich, his Adversary values it not, knowing his blind side, and how to cully him out of his Birth-right. The management of our Maritime Affairs has been the common Subject of all Tongues, as it has been the common Grievance of the Nation; and what makes it the more resented by those that have paid Money to the Managers, and been at the Charge of our Naval Force, is the mighty Advantage *England* has had over the Enemy in this point. Let us consider the natural Advantage of our Dominions, the happy Situation of our Territories in order to annoy our Enemy: Let us (and that not without shame) look into the *Aquitain* Sea, and behold there the Islands of *Jerzey*, *Guernsey*, &c. in our possession, just upon the Enemy's Coast, provided with Harbors, convenient Peers, safe Roads for Ships to ride in secure of all Tempests, overlooking the Enemy's Ships as they pass from *St. Malo*, *Granville*, &c. and at the same time to consider that they have been of no other advantage during the War than an accidental Shelter to such of our Ships as have touch'd there, is matter of amazement as well as miscarriage. In the time of the Civil Wars Sir *Geo. Carteret* was then Governor of the Island of *Jerzey* in trust for the Royal Family, and with about twelve or fourteen very small Frigots, so annoy'd *England*, that the Government then in being

being was forc'd to send a Fleet with considerable Forces to reduce that Island. Had we been wanting of Shipping during the War, the case would have been alter'd; but had a small number of our Ships cruiz'd in that Station, the very Prizes they would have taken had been sufficient to have paid the charge of the Ships, provided the said Prizes had not been converted to private uses, and sunk in Grants. I have often wonder'd the French during the War did not repossess themselves of those Islands, notwithstanding the sincere Affection of the Inhabitants to the present Government, their good Discipline and Native Courage: they would certainly have made some Insults upon those Islands, had they not reaped a greater Advantage by them than the possession of them would have amounted to; for from thence they were supply'd with Lead, Pitch, Tar, and other Necessaries of War, besides a settled Intelligence of the Affairs of *England*, and all this done by the King's own Officers. The Register of Certificates in the Island of *Jersey* was complain'd against at Court upon this account, and by his own Confession as well as by the Depositions of several Witnesses, convicted thereof before the Council, and by the Council discharg'd for the same. But such is the Fate of ill Men in Offices, and that do disservice to their Country, that soon after his discharge he was punished with a Landwaiter's Place in the Port of *London*, which Place he enjoys at this Juncture, as if the Priest of *Chaussey* his traiterous Correspondent had absolv'd him from all his Sins, and made him again *rectus in Curia* at *White-Hall*. When there is a Concatenation of Villany in Publick Offices, one Link of the Chain must not be broken; if so, it is a Chain no longer. But this is a small Kindness in his Patron Sir *W. T.* thus to advance the Brother, who has two of his Sisters to serve under him. Our Mismanagements every body knows, and we have Complainers enow, but the Difficulties we labour under is to find out Punishers: We have had sufficient Experience that the punishing of Criminals with good Offices and Employments, has had an Effect answerable to the Folly of the Project, to punish a Captain for giving away a 5th Rate to the Enemy, with preferring him to a fourth Rate, will never do our business. If you officer your Ships of War with *Rigby's*, and man them with Landmen, christned by the name of Mareeners, you'l

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make but an indifferent spot of work of it. And now I mention Mareeners, I would beg the favour of you, Sir, to keep them at home, and set 'em Sentinels over the Farmers Cocks and Hens; for they do us no other service here than to eat up our Provisions, make us lowly, and stand in our way: These amphibious Soldiers, that live either on Land or Water, are a Scandal to both, and serviceable on neither. We don't want Sailors now, and are willing to be freed from the Plague of Land-Lubbers; yet you see the Army-folk are desirous of 'em, any thing rather than lose their point; an Army they would have, tho it were of Tatterdemalions, while the Credit, Reputation, and Usefulness of the English Navy is sunk, and overset by a sort of Men that have a Necessity for a Land Force, to the ruin of our Country, and the loss of our Birth-rights.

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